Interest in Hungary Thrives at IU

The Bloomington campus of Indiana University is the major center for the study of Hungary in the United States. It is home to the Hungarian Studies program, the only such U.S. program leading to an advanced degree offering a concentration of courses devoted to Hungary, her history, culture, literature, and language. In addition to courses taught by regular faculty in the Department of Central Eurasian Studies, the Hungarian program is enhanced each year by the holder of the György Ránki Chair in Hungarian Studies.

The Hungarian Chair is an endowed position funded jointly by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and IU and filled by a professor appointed from Hungary. Established by an agreement in 1979, it represented the rather unusual arrangement of an appointee from a Communist country serving on the faculty of an American public university.

This year's Hungarian Chair is Laszlo Borhi of the Institute of History at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. This spring, he has been teaching two courses on the political economy of Hungary and Hungarian foreign policy, while working on a historical study of the American response to Soviet rule in Hungary during the period 1944-56. Borhi also organized an international conference, "Hungarian Contributions to Scholarship," which was attended by the Ambassador of the Hungarian Republic, His Excellency György Bánlaki.

The conference took place April 5-6 and brought together some 20

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or—as Szymborska did—truly believed in the utopian dream of a better world. Many of these poets chose to forget their own mistakes, while a handful of others, including Szymborska, did not deny them and understood the real depth of what this utopia represented. Hence the poem's chilling message.

Introduced here as a poet of the usual, Szymborska is more than a descriptive artist, since she imbues what is obvious to our eye with personal experience and sly reference to the dramatic shifts and tensions of socio-political reality. Yet hers is also a rich and thoughtful summary encompassing life's many intimate paradoxes and contradictions, best expressed in her "Thank-You Note": "I owe so much to those I don't love."

— Bozena Shallcross
Slavic Languages and Literatures, IUB.

Rector Włodzimierz Siwinski of Warsaw University was honored at a reception hosted by the IU Polish Studies Center. To his right is Bozena Shallcross, Polish literature professor and the center's associate director. Janusz Grzelak (right) is dean of International Programs at Warsaw University. Siwinski and Grzelak visited Bloomington in connection with the IU-Warsaw Exchange.
Two professors have received the 1997 John W. Ryan Awards for distinguished contributions to international programs and studies at Indiana University.

Robert M. Einterz, a clinical professor of medicine at the IU School of Medicine, was cited for his vision and his efforts to improve medical education in the developing world. Since his appointment in 1985, he has been putting this vision to work, spending a year in Haiti in community development and then planning a collaborative project to involve the IU School of Medicine. Since 1990, Einterz has been director of the exchange program between the School and Moi University Medical School in Eldoret, Kenya.

This widely admired program has already sent more than 135 IU faculty and students, in departments ranging from pediatrics to surgery, to Eldoret. Kenyans coming to IUPUI for clinical rotations have similarly benefited from the experience. "Bob Einterz has established a program which has, without question, changed lives both here and in Kenya," says James Lemons, the Hugh McK. Landon Professor of Pediatrics at IU.

George Wilson, professor of history and director of the East Asian Studies Center at IUB, has "contributed in an uncommonly broad way to furthering and deepening the international mission and visibility of Indiana University," according to historian Walter Nugent of the University of Notre Dame.

His first major innovation was to found the East Asian Studies Program in 1970. In 1975, he established the Office of International Programs, serving as its first dean for three years. He then led IU's efforts to obtain federal funds to establish the East Asian Studies Center, which he has headed since 1987, and to initiate important IU exchanges in Korea, Japan, and China.

In his own department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Wilson has played a crucial role in its development into one of the top ten in the nation. His colleagues praise him for his intellectual imagination, judiciousness, and collegiality.